

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the indication of allowance of claims 1-3, 5, 6, 12-15, 32 and 38, in the Office Action mailed June 23, 2004, in the above-identified application. In this Office Action mailed June 23, 2004, claims 4, 9, 10, 16-20, 22-25, 27-31 and 33-37 were rejected, on prior art grounds.

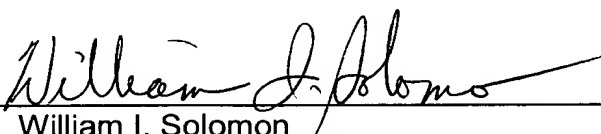
By the present amendments, the rejected claims have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and the allowed claims have been left in the application. It is respectfully submitted that, even in view of the presently submitted Information Disclosure Statement Under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, the previously allowed claims should remain allowed.

In addition, Applicants are adding new claim 39 to the application. Claim 39 is similar to allowed claim 5, but deletes the recitation that at least one of the copper film interconnect and the plug contains a layer as formed through physical vapor deposition. Noting, for example, the statement by the Examiner in Item 4 on page 5 of the Office Action mailed June 23, 2004, that claim 5, among other claims, is allowed "because the prior art of record does not teach or suggest a copper film interconnect structure that includes a plug with ruthenium as the primary constituent element, in combination of the other claim limitations", and that claim 39 recites, inter alia, that the plug is formed of ruthenium as the primary constituent element, it is respectfully submitted that claim 39 should also be allowed.

The undersigned again directs attention to the concurrently filed Information Disclosure Statement, and respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims remaining in the above-identified application, with this reconsideration including consideration of the documents and comments in connection therewith in the concurrently filed Information Disclosure Statement.

Applicants request any shortage of fees due in connection with the filing of this paper be charged to the Deposit Account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (case 501.36931X00), and credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,
ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP.

By 
William I. Solomon
Registration No. 28,565

WIS/ksh
1300 N. Seventeenth Street
Suite 1800
Arlington, Virginia 22209
Tel: 703-312-6600
Fax: 703-312-6666